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Advisory Services on Trade Documentation

TRADE DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION

ALIGNMENT OF PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES TO THE ECE LAYOUT KEY

(Note by the Inter-regional Adviser on Trade Documentation)

1. Article V of the International Plant Protection Convention (Rome, 1951) stipulates that each contracting Government shall make arrangements for the issue of phytosanitary certificates to accord with the plant protection regulations of other contracting Governments, and in conformity with certain provisions specified in the Article. According to one of these provisions, each certificate covering material intended for planting or propagation shall be as worded in the Annex to the Convention and shall include such additional declarations as may be required by the importing country. Moreover, contracting Governments undertake not to require such consignments of plants to be accompanied by phytosanitary certificates inconsistent with the model set out in the Annex.

2. Some Governments participating in the international work on simplification and standardization of external trade documents have drawn the attention to the fact that no model phytosanitary certificate aligned to the ECE layout key has yet been introduced. Following an initiative by the Government of the USSR, and in consultation with the Plant Production and Protection Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), depository of the International Plant Protection Convention, the appended ECE-aligned model form therefore has been prepared.

3. The ECE-based model is not inconsistent with the Annex and there is therefore no need for a formal amendment of the Convention to allow its use, as the Annex to the Convention establishes the relevant wording rather than the exact layout of the certificate form. It was recommended, however, at the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, during November 1971, that the provisions of the International Plant Protection Convention dealing with the model phytosanitary certificate be re-examined and that an ad hoc consultation be organized as soon as possible during 1972-73 to deal with this.

4. Meanwhile, the respective national Plant Protection Services should be able to accept the ECE-aligned form forthwith; this would offer an excellent opportunity to test these forms and to familiarize services and users with them. It is advisable, during an initial period, to inform recipient countries of the changeover to the new certificate form.

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5. In discussing the alignment of the phytosanitary certificate with the Plant Protection Services of some countries, the question has been asked in what way these Services could benefit from the introduction of an ECE-aligned form. In this connexion it should be noted that normally an application for inspection has to be submitted before the actual inspection takes place, and that the phytosanitary certificate is issued by the service concerned following the inspection. The Plant Protection Services consulted agreed that a standard application form could usefully be drafted to align with the ECE-aligned form. It would then be possible for the exporter to fill in an application form and the ECE-aligned form with all the consignment details before handing it in. This would considerably reduce the work for the Plant Protection Services as they - whenever this procedure is applied - would only have to complete the certificate part of the form. For the exporter this would mean only to run off one application form and the requisite number of certificate forms from the master, together with all other forms relating to the shipment. A model for an application form which could be used in this manner is appended.

Name and address of exporter	APPLICATION FOR PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE
Name and address of consignee	
	Origin*
Means of conveyance From	Botanical name*
Point of entry	Intended use

Distinguishing marks; No and description of packages; quantity and name of produce	Gross weight	Measurement

Kindly inspect the products described above and issue a Phytosanitary Certificate in Accordance with Article V of the International Plant Protection Convention, 1951

Date, exporter's signature

For use of the Plant Protection Service

* if required by importing country

Name and address of exporter	PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE No ..... appearing below is issued in accordance with Article V of the International Plant Protection Convention, 1951, and is not inconsistent with the model set out in the Annex to the Convention. The consignment description is supplied by the exporter and the certifying official disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy of this information.
Name and address of consignee	
	Origin*
Means of conveyance From	Botanical name*
Point of entry	Intended use

Distinguishing marks; No and description of packages; quantity and name of produce	Gross weight	Measurement

PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE No.....

Additional declaration

Plant Protection Service of .....

This is to certify that the plants, parts of plants or plant products described above or representative samples of them were thoroughly examined by an authorized officer of the ....(service) and were found to the best of his knowledge to be substantially free from injurious diseases and pests, and that the consignment is believed to conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country both as stated in the additional declaration hereon and otherwise.

TREATMENT:

Fumigation or disinfection treatment*	Treatment date	Date of issue
Chemicals and concentration	Duration of exposure	Stamp of the Service
Name of examining officer	Examination date	..... Signature and rank of certifying officer

* If required by importing country

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